



David Earl Harrison

November 14, 1946 - March 17, 2023

After a sudden and brief illness, David Earl Harrison passed away peacefully at Anne Arundel Medical Center on March 17, 2023. He was born at home in Magnolia Springs, AL, on November 14, 1946, to parents James and Nell (Keith) Harrison.

Age 15, Dave moved from Florida to MD, following his brother Jimmy stationed at Patuxent Naval Base. Dave landed a summer job at Cape St. Mary's Marina pumping gas and painting boat bottoms his junior year of high school. There he met Colonel Fitzgerald and his wife Catherine, who 'adopted' Dave into the Fitzgerald family. He was deeply grateful for the love and support of the entire Fitzgerald family.

Thanks to Ed Fitzgerald and his wife Donna, Dave graduated from Chopticon High School. He went on to enroll in Prince George's Community College. Dave then joined the US Army Reserves, attended OCS, and progressed to the rank of Captain. He became an Army Airborne Ranger, jumping out of planes, despite of his fear of heights.

In 1971, Dave married Verna (Gould) Harrison, his wife of 24 years. They shared daughter, Katherine Harrison, his "Katie Love."

Dave had a business career which left an indelible mark on the marine

industry in the Chesapeake area. In his early days, he ran houseboat rentals and then established Marine Engine Sales and Service. With life-long friend Buddy Rogers, it grew into the Chesapeake's largest marine service business. His efforts in travelift sales led to his becoming the US East Coast Representative of Marine Travelift.

In 1983, Dave opened Harrison Yacht Sales, which would ultimately become the largest Carver dealership in the world during his tenure. He added Sea Ray and other boat lines, building a successful marina in Kent Narrows. For years Dave had a large presence in the Annapolis Power Boat Show – so much so that the “Ego Alley” dock slips used during the show were known as “Harrison’s Hole.”

After his tremendous achievements in yacht sales, Dave worked tirelessly alongside Kurt, Nancy, and Melody. Together they ran one of the busiest and most successful boat yards in the area up until his retirement.

In 2002, he married the love of his life, Tracy (MacDonald) Harrison, with whom he traveled all over North America, on boats, planes, motorcycles, and motorhomes. They shared the love of their cocker spaniels over the years.

To say Dave lived a very full life is an understatement. Like Sinatra sang it, he did it his way. He was a self-made man and achieved the American Dream through his tenacity and drive. He enjoyed the pursuit of the next deal – from the largest to the smallest – he always could find a deal to be made somewhere. He had a competitiveness second to none. His nickname was ‘Hurricane’ – he approached life and business and its challenges with gale force and was a fierce problem solver. He made the impossible possible, and he encouraged everyone around him to strive for the best. He helped mentor many people in his life and career.

Dave had a wonderful sense of humor, but a pretty terrible repertoire of jokes. He loved to make people laugh. When he wasn't reaching for the stars or putting in the miles, he enjoyed a quiet life in his home on the Wye River with his wife and dogs. His passions were boating, motorcycling, RV'ing, fishing, golfing, enjoying good food and drink, and keeping up on current events.

Dave is survived by his wife, Tracy; daughter Katie; beloved dogs, Beau and Fitz; former wife, Verna (Bob), Fitzgerald; brothers, Ed (Donna) and Jim (Sue) and their children and grandchildren; sister, Ann (Ron); nephew David; and half-brother Dempsey (Anita).

Stories and memories of Dave are countless. We would love for his family and friends to join us for a celebration of his life at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club, 500 Marina Club Road, Stevensville MD 21666, in the Bayside Tavern Room, on Thursday, March 23, from 4-7 p.m.

The family wishes to extend its deepest gratitude for the exceptional care Dave received in the University of MD Shore Medical ER and most especially in the ICU at AAMC. His nurses and entire medical team were amazing.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation (www.pulmonaryfibrosis.org) or to St. Jude or Shriners' Children Hospitals, which Dave and Tracy have supported for many years.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR **23**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Chesapeake Bay Beach Club
500 Marina Club Rd.
Stevensville, MD 21666

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of David Earl Harrison* ”



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - March 21, 2023 at 11:21 AM

SS

This is a beautiful tribute to a kind and loving friend, role model, and great man. Thank you for sharing it.

Shari Farber Snowman - March 22, 2023 at 12:57 PM

LW

Katie,

I hope that you find comfort in many fond memories.

Sincerely Sympathy,

Lynn

Lynn Weinberg - March 24, 2023 at 09:38 PM

TH

This is beautiful.

So many thanks to Chad Helfenbein and his staff for taking Dave into their care, honoring him well and making the most difficult time so much less stressful.

Sincerely,

Tracy and Katie Harrison

Tracy Harrison - March 25, 2023 at 11:56 AM



“ *David Earl Harrison*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Katie,*

I hope that you find comfort in many fond memories.

With sincere sympathy, Lynn

Lynn Weinberg - March 24, 2023 at 09:23 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Shari Farber Snowman - March 24, 2023 at 03:57 AM



Love this Randy, thank you for being here and your kind words. You and Shari were such good friends to Dave and I am grateful to be part of your lives. See you soon in Stuart.

Tracy Harrison - March 25, 2023 at 12:00 PM

AG

“ As I Scrolled through the Obits this morning, (something i think a lot of us do as we age,lol,) I saw Mr. Harrisons Tribute. What an awesome human being. I wasnt Blessed in knowing him, as we have never met,although i sure wished i did. He and i sound like brothers from a different mother. His travels, love of the water. I know he must have been an awesome person, a great friend and loved family guy. My condolences to his entire family. Cherish all of the fun times, and memories, as i'm sure you have many. Although i live in NC, i wished that i was at the gathering today, to hug and shake hands with this mans family, as you all pay homage to this truly well versed and well traveled guy. God Bless.

Arthur Godfrey - March 23, 2023 at 09:40 AM

DP

“ Doug Pierson lit a candle in memory of David Earl Harrison



Doug Pierson - March 21, 2023 at 01:30 PM



“ RIP to the smartest and most resourceful man I've ever worked for

Sukie Tawdry - March 20, 2023 at 10:05 AM

MB

“ Mike & Jean Bevan lit a candle in memory of David Earl Harrison



Mike & Jean Bevan - March 19, 2023 at 08:09 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of David Earl Harrison.*



March 19, 2023 at 07:44 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of David Earl Harrison.*



March 19, 2023 at 07:23 PM